

**MINUTES  
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING  
MAY 14, 2012**

**RECEIVED**  
**MAY 21 2012**  
**TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**  
**DARIEN CT.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by Donna Rajczewski, Town Clerk.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were present:

From District I, there were 12 members present, 5 absent.  
From District II, there were 14 members present, 1 absent.  
From District III, there were 16 members present, 2 absent.  
From District IV, there were 10 members present, 4 absent.  
From District V, there were 12 members present, 4 absent.  
From District VI, there were 11 members present, 4 absent.

The absentees from District I were: Cepeda, Henderson, Kahn, Schwarz, Valentino.  
The absentees from District II were: Hilton.  
The absentees from District III were: Coyne, Fead.  
The absentees from District IV were: Millar, Morrison, Peters, Rayhill.  
The absentees from District V were: Adiletta, George, Russell, Sharp.  
The absentees from District VI were: Baldwin, Broecking, McLean, Poli.

The Moderator, Karen A. Armour, assumed the Chair.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

**\*\* THE AGENDA WAS ACCEPTED BY UNIVERSAL CONSENT.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Rajczewski said for those whose terms will be completed in November 2012, in July they will receive a notice to renominate themselves for another term. Anyone in Districts II and IV will not have a problem. For Districts I, III, V and VI, if the districts have been changed, they will be representing the new district, but they do not need a petition. If their term is not up until 2013 and their district has changed, they will still be representing the district they are in.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2012 MEETING**

**\*\* THE MINUTES WERE ACCEPTED BY UNIVERSAL CONSENT.**

**12-9**

**CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT OF 208,000 FOR  
RENOVATION OF GALLAGHER FIELD AT CHERRY LAWN PARK FROM THE  
DARIEN LITTLE LEAGUE**

**\*\* ADELE CONNIFF, DISTRICT V, VICE-CHAIR OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 2-33 of the Code of the Town of Darien, the Board of Selectmen is empowered on behalf of the Town of Darien to accept gifts, provided gifts do not have a value in excess of Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 2-33 of the Code of the Town of Darien, said gifts in excess of Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00) may be accepted with action by the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien; and

**WHEREAS**, the Darien Little League desires to make improvements to Gallagher Field in Cherry Lawn Park with an estimated value up to Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$250,000.00); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen has previously approved the acceptance of this gift;

**BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien accepts with thanks the gift to the Town of Darien by the Darien Little League. In particular, the Representative Town Meeting authorizes the acceptance of a gift in an amount up to Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$250,000.00) from the Darien Little League for its renovation of Gallagher Field at Cherry Lawn Park.

**\*\* THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Adele Conniff, District V, Vice-Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Committee, read the report of the committee (attached).

Bruce Orr, District V, Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee, read the committee report (attached).

Jane Branigan, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission, read the commission's report (attached).

**\*\* ITEM 12-9 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 70 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

## **12-10**

### **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON ACCEPTANCE OF \$50,000 GIFT TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE DARIEN TECHNOLOGY GROUP**

**\*\* CAROLYN SCHOONMAKER, DISTRICT IV, CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY, MOVED:**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 2-33 of the Code of the Town of Darien, the Board of Selectmen is empowered on behalf of the Town of Darien to accept gifts, provided gifts do not have a value in excess of Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 2-33 of the Code of the Town of Darien, said gifts in excess of Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00) may be accepted with action by the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien; and

**WHEREAS**, Darien Technology Foundation has offered to donate funds to acquire and install an interactive training system for the Darien Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, this gift involves a donation of Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00);

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen has previously approved the acceptance of this gift;

**BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien accepts with thanks the gift to the Town of Darien by the Darien Technology Foundation. In particular, the Representative Town Meeting authorizes the acceptance of a gift from the Darien Technology Foundation in the amount of Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00) and appropriates said sum into the Capital Fund towards the funding of an interactive training system for the Darien Police Department.

**\*\* THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Carolyn Schoonmaker, District IV, Chairman of the Health & Public Safety Commission, read the report of the committee (attached).

Bruce Orr, District V, Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee, read the committee report (attached).

Elisabeth Bacon, District II, asked if retro-fitting to the building was needed. Selectman Nielsen said the new shooting range was anticipated. It is in the same space, and they are on budget.

Dennis Maroney, District III, asked how many times Darien police officers have discharged their weapons. The Moderator said she had no answer to that question. Liz Mao, Chairman of the Board of Finance, said they are required by law to maintain certification and have several hours per year of shooting practice.

**\*\* ITEM 12-10 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 70 IN FAVOR, 1 OPPOSED, 1 ABSENTION.**

#### 12-11

#### CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON ACCEPTANCE OF A TOTAL GIFT OF \$10,770 FOR THE SENIOR CENTER

**\*\* CAROLYN SCHOONMAKER, DISTRICT IV, CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 2-33 of the Code of the Town of Darien, the Board of Selectmen is empowered on behalf of the Town of Darien to accept gifts, provided gifts do not have a value in excess of Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 2-33 of the Code of the Town of Darien, said gifts in excess of Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00) may be accepted with action by the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien; and

**WHEREAS**, the Estate of Charles Meister provided for a gift to the Darien Senior Center which has been disbursed in two payments totaling \$10,770.00 and;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen has previously approved the acceptance of this gift;

**BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien accepts with thanks the gift to the Darien Senior Center from the Estate of Charles Meister. In particular, the Representative Town Meeting authorizes the acceptance of a gift in the amount of Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,770.00) and appropriates said sum into the Capital Fund towards the Senior Center Gift Fund.

**\*\* THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Carolyn Schoonmaker, District IV, Chairman of the Public Health & Safety Committee, read the committee's report (attached).

**\*\* ITEM 12-11 PASSED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 72 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

**ELECTION OF BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBER TO REPLACE MARY GUIMOND**

**\*\* SETH MORTON, DISTRICT III, NOMINATED HIMSELF.**

**\*\* JOHN BOULTON, DISTRICT V, SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED BY ACCLAMATION.**

**12-12**

**APPROPRIATION OF \$60,000,000 FOR REFUNDING OF CERTAIN OF THE TOWN'S BONDS AND AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION**

**\*\* BRUCE ORR, DISTRICT V, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

**RESOLVED:**

**Section 1.** The sum of SIXTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$60,000,000) is appropriated to fund the redemption and the payment, in whole or in part, as determined by the First Selectman, the Town Treasurer, the Board of Finance or any Town official designated by the Board of Finance and the Finance Director of the Town of Darien (the "Town"), of the outstanding principal, accrued interest and any call premium on all or any portion of any issue of the Town's

General Obligation Bonds including, but not limited to, the Town's General Obligation Bonds issued in 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 (the "Prior Bonds"), together with the costs of issuance including, but not limited to, any applicable consultants' fees, legal fees, trustee and escrow agent fees, investment fees, verification fees, underwriters' fees and other financing or transactional costs and other expenses related to the payment or redemption of such bonds for the purposes of refunding them.

**Section 2.** The Town is hereby authorized to issue its refunding bonds, in an amount not to exceed SIXTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$60,000,000) (the "Refunding Bonds"), to fund the appropriation authorized by Section 1 of this resolution, provided that the issuance of such Refunding Bonds achieves present value debt service savings for the Town. The Refunding Bonds shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-370c of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and any other provision of law thereto enabling. The Refunding Bonds shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town.

**Section 3.** The First Selectman and the Town Treasurer shall sign the Refunding Bonds by either manual or facsimile signatures and the law firm designated as bond counsel is authorized to approve the legality of the Refunding Bonds.

**Section 4.** The First Selectman, the Town Treasurer, the Board of Finance or any Town official designated by the Board of Finance and the Finance Director are authorized to determine which of the Prior Bonds are to be redeemed and the amount, date, interest rates and interest mode, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the Refunding Bonds; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the Refunding Bonds and escrow agent with respect to the refunding escrow or escrows to be funded with proceeds of the Refunding Bonds; to provide for the keeping of a record of the Refunding Bonds; to sell the Refunding Bonds at public or private sale; to deliver the Refunding Bonds; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the Refunding Bonds.

**Section 5.** The First Selectman and the Town Treasurer are authorized to call irrevocably for redemption such of the maturities of the Prior Bonds, as they shall determine to refund from the proceeds of the Refunding Bonds and other moneys as they may determine to make available for this purpose and to defease such Prior Bonds by executing and delivering an escrow agreement in such form and upon such terms as they shall approve, such approval to be conclusively evidenced by their execution thereof.

**Section 6.** The First Selectman, the Town Treasurer and the Finance Director, or any two of them, are authorized to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the Refunding Bonds authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

**Section 7.** The First Selectman, the Town Treasurer and the Finance Director, or any one of them, are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the Refunding Bonds to provide secondary market disclosure information, which

agreements may include such terms as she or he deems advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such Refunding Bonds.

**Section 8.** The First Selectman and the Town Treasurer are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the Town to effectuate the refunding of all or a portion of the Prior Bonds and to issue Refunding Bonds authorized hereby for such purposes, including, but not limited to, the entrance into agreements on behalf of the Town with underwriters, trustees, escrow agents and others to facilitate the issuance of the Refunding Bonds, the escrow of the proceeds thereof and investment earnings thereon and the payment of the Prior Bonds in whole or in part.

**Section 9.** Any authorized but unissued portions of previous refunding authorizations are rescinded.

**\*\* THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Bruce Orr, District V, Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee, read the committee report (attached).

**\*\* ITEM 12-12 CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 72 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

### 12-13

#### CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE JULY 1, 2012 TO JUNE 30, 2013 BUDGET RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE

**\*\* BRUCE ORR, DISTRICT V, CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE & BUDGET, MOVED THE SELECTMEN'S OPERATING BUDGET:**

A RESOLVED, that an appropriation of \$ 40,250,354 is hereby made in the General Fund for the Selectmen's Operating Budget.

**\*\* THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Adele Conniff, District V, Vice-Chair of the Parks & Recreation Committee, read that committee's report (attached).

Allison Stolar, District V, Vice-Chair of the Public Works Committee, read the committee report (attached).

John van der Kieft, District V, Chairman of PZ&H, read that committee's report (attached).

Jayne Stevenson, First Selectman, read the report of the Board of Selectmen (attached).

Liz Mao, Chairman of the Board of Finance, read the report of the Board of Finance (attached).

**\*\* ITEM 12-13A CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 69 IN FAVOR, 2 OPPOSED, 1 ABSENTION.**

**\*\* MODERATOR KAREN A. ARMOUR, DISTRICT VI, MOVED THE EDUCATION OPERATING BUDGET.**

B RESOLVED, that an appropriation of \$ 79,984,182 is hereby made in the General Fund for the Education Operating Budget.

**\*\* THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

Lois Schneider, District I, Chairman of the Education Committee, read the report of the Education Committee (attached).

Bruce Orr, District V, Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee, read that committee's report (attached).

Elizabeth Hagerty-Ross, Chairman of the Board of Education, read the report of the Board of Education (attached).

Liz Mao, Chairman of the Board of Finance, read the report of the Board of Finance (attached).

Spencer McIlmurray, District II, asked how much funding still remains in the Board of Education budget for the Foreign Language program. Mrs. Hagerty-Ross said there is \$165,000 that has not been identified to any one budget item. Dr. Falcone will look at this after tonight's meeting. Mr. McIlmurray said the ability to speak multiple languages is a key to moving forward but this has to be done in a certain way to increase the benefits. He has spoken to experts in this field who said it has to be a totally concerted effort. The 45 minutes per week yields minimal benefits. If this is going to be done, it should be done in a true concerted way.

The Moderator said no one in this room has the capability to cut any specific line item in the Board of Education budget except the Board of Education.

Peter Kelly, District I, said he applauds the Board of Education for the work they put in. 70% of Darien's population are parents of children under the age of 18. He applauds the Board of Finance for telling the Board of Education to change what they are doing. The taxpayers want them to approve this budget, but he feels that change has to take place. The Board of Education has to get their expenses in line with inflation and stop coming back with increases that do not make sense to him. Special education budgets are out of control. He will approve this budget, but it is time for the Board of Education to take responsibility and come back with a budget in line with the rate of inflation.

John Sini, District I, questioned the reasoning for the amount of the deduction. Mrs. Mao said several members of the Board of Finance did not support the World Language program. It is a language familiarization program, not a language program. The BOE spoke passionately about this program. \$459,000 of the \$900,000 was non-student impact spending. She thought there were other pockets of money that they could find this year. However, we may not get those same savings next year. The Board of Finance felt that the new psychologist and social worker were needed. Re the language program, the Board of Education is charged with choosing needed

programs. To make a meaningful cut, i.e., that affects the tax rate, it has to be \$100,000,000, and the only way to get that is from the classroom. She does not think that is what Darien taxpayers and parents want. There does not seem to be deep support from taxpayers in cutting the Board of Education budget.

Martin Magida, District II, re special education, asked for specifics on reducing these costs. Mrs. Hagerty-Ross introduced Dr. Falcone, who said students with special needs are required to have a free education. They have maximized the way they deliver support to students. They have moved them into certain clusters; they reduced 7 para-professionals this year; they took care of an additional 16 students this year with the same amount of staff. Another area they have worked on is bringing people into the district rather than sending the students out of district to receive services. They are looking into a scheduling plan that will have further efficiencies. They have hired a new Special Education Director with new and fresh ideas. Mr. Magida said there is special education around the state and asked how this BOE is discussing their ideas and putting into effect best practices around the state. Dr. Falcone said they are in a network where they discuss this. A lot of the issues center around how state and federal regulations function. School districts work together.

Jack Davis, District V, read a lengthy written speech (attached) giving his ideas about the programs and services of the BOE could be better, and ended by noting that he will vote for this budget.

**\*\* ITEM 12-13B CARRIED ON A RISING TALLY VOTE OF 67 IN FAVOR, 4 OPPOSED, 2 ABSTENTIONS.**

**\*\* BRUCE ORR, DISTRICT V, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

C RESOLVED, that the above appropriations, totaling \$ 120,234,536 are for the purpose of meeting the expenses of the Town of Darien for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013 as shown by the budget this day approved.

**\*\* THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**

**\*\* ITEM 12-13C CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.**

**\*\* BRUCE ORR, DISTRICT V, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

D RESOLVED, that the following appropriations from other funds are hereby made as detailed below for the 2012-2013 fiscal year as shown by the budget this day approved.

2,079,481	Reserve Fund for Capital & Non-recurring expenses
2,867,764	Sewer Operating Fund for the purpose of meeting expenses of the Town of Darien, Sewer Commission
550,000	Sewer Assessment Fund
74,889	Sewer Capital Fund
671,500	Parking Lot Administration Fund
263,597	Parking Lot Capital Fund



**\*\* THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**  
**\*\* ITEM 12-13D PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

**\*\* BRUCE ORR, DISTRICT V, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

E RESOLVED, that a tax of 12.68 mills is hereby levied upon the last complete grand list of the Town with a total net assessment of \$ 8,856,217,761 on property as of October 1, 2011, payable in two equal semi-annual installments, the first installment to become due and payable on July 1, 2012 and the second installment to become due and payable on January 1, 2013, provided however that:

1. Any taxpayer may pay both of said installments on July 1, 2012;
2. The personal property tax on motor vehicles in said Town shall become due and payable in one single installment on July 1, 2012
3. Any property tax in any amount not in excess of one hundred (\$ 100.00) shall become due and payable in one single installment on July 1, 2012

**\*\* THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**  
**\*\* ITEM 12-13 E PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

**\*\* BRUCE ORR, DISTRICT V, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE, MOVED:**

F RESOLVED, that the Town of Darien, acting through its Board of Selectmen, and subject to the approval of said Town at the Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to be held May 14, 2012, be authorized to borrow on the note or notes of the Town the sum of \$ 5,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for the general expenses of the Town pending the collection of either or both of said semi-annual installments of taxes on or prior to June 30,

**\*\* THE MOTION WAS SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.**

**\*\* UPON MOTION MADE AND SECONDED FROM THE FLOOR, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN AT 10:30 P.M. BY VOICE VOTE.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco Blois  
Telesco Secretarial Services

## APPENDIX

<u>DISTRICT I</u>	<u>(12-9)</u>	<u>(12-10)</u>	<u>(12-11)</u>	<u>(12-12)</u>	<u>(12-13A Sel)</u>	<u>(12-13B BoE)*</u>
Cepeda	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Firmin	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Glassmeyer	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hegarty	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Henderson	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Huck	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	yes
Imbimbo	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Kahn	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Kelly	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Kernen	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Saksena	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Schneider	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Schulz-Amatruda	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Schwarz	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Sini	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Tierney	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Valentino	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent

### DISTRICT II

Bacon	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ebrahimi	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Finn	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hilton	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Hoffman	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Howe	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Magida	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Maguire	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	?
Marston	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
McIlmurray	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Miller	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mundt	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Seelye	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Thorne, B.	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Thorne, M	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

### DISTRICT III

Anderson	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Bayne	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Brode	?	yes	yes	yes	yes	?
Burke	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Cardone	?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Coyle	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Coyne	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Duffy	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	abstain
Fead	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Ferretti	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
LeHan	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Maroney	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Martens	yes	abstain	yes	yes	yes	yes
Moore	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	?
Morton	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Olvany	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Smith	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Young	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

(12-13C-12-13F)

Passed on voice votes

<u>DISTRICT IV</u>	<u>(12-9)</u>	<u>(12-10)</u>	<u>(12-11)</u>	<u>(12-12)</u>	<u>(12-13A)</u>	<u>(12-13B)*</u>
Cameron	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Cleary	yes	yes	yes	yes	abstain	yes
Davis	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Fiore	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hardison	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Kemp	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	yes
Millar	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Morrison	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Peters	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Rayhill	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Rycenga	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Savage	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
C.Schoonmaker	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	abstain
S.Schoonmaker	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

#### DISTRICT V

Adiletta	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Boulton	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Bumgardner	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Camuti	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Conniff	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Dailey	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Davis	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
George	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Hennessy	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Orr	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Patrick	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ritchie	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Russell	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Sharp	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Stolar	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
vanderKieft	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

#### DISTRICT VI

Adelman	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Armour	Did not vote					
Baldwin	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Broecking	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Conologue	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Grogan	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Haas	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hawkins	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
McDermott	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
McLean	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
McNamara	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Palen	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Plehaty	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Poli	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Swenson	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

(12-13C-12-13F)

Passed on voice votes

## PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Report to RTM, May 14, 2012

9 (del)

### **(12-4) RTM RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GIFT FROM THE DARIEN LITTLE LEAGUE FOR THE RENOVATION OF GALLAGHER FIELD AT CHERRY LAWN PARK**

I am Adele Conniff, District 5, Vice Chairman of the Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Committee met on May 7, 2012 with 9 of 14 members present, comprising a quorum.

Our meeting was attended by Santo Golino and Tony Farren of the Darien Little League to discuss the DLL's proposed renovations. They explained that improving safety and drainage were the primary purposes of the renovation.

The field will be moved approximately 20 ft. from the adjacent property and from Brookside Road. The field will be appropriately leveled, with better drainage installed. The backstop will be 20 ft at the highest and the field will be fenced with black enamel fencing except along Brookside Road. Split rail fencing with a wire mesh will be installed along the first base foul line along Brookside Road. The Infield clay will be replaced and irrigation installed.

The committee discussed possible increased costs to the town. It was felt the increase in water usage costs from the irrigation would probably be offset by a decrease in maintenance hours spent repairing the field. We also discussed the split rail fence (a change from the original plan) which was requested by a neighbor at a public hearing and subsequently required by Planning & Zoning. It was felt the split rail fencing might have future maintenance cost implications. Adult fall softball which currently uses Gallagher Field one day a week in the fall will be relocated as the renovated field will be too small. The renovations should begin in late August and last 3 to 4 weeks. The field should be ready for play in the spring.

We were reminded by Cheryl Russell of the history of the dedication of Gallagher Field to the memory of Eileen "Boe" Gallagher. Boe was a Selectman and Chairman of The Park and Recreation Committee. She fought hard to have Cherry Lawn dedicated as a park space, protecting it from other use.(state statute). Only if like space is provided could the land use change. Boe worked to make sure all town fields and parks were dedicated so Darien's children are assured open space. There is a memorial plaque on a large boulder next to the field. The committee discussed with the DLL representatives putting modest landscaping around the plaque.

The Committee voted unanimously to accept the Darien Little League gift of up to \$250,000 for the renovation of Gallagher Field at Cherry Lawn Park. We hope the RTM will support this wonderful and much needed gift.

Adele Conniff

Vice Chairman, Parks and Recreation Committee

**Finance & Budget Committee  
Report to RTM, May 14, 2012**

**(12-09) RTM RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GIFT FROM THE DARIEN  
LITTLE LEAGUE FOR THE RENOVATION OF CHERRY LAWN PARK FIELD**

I am Bruce Orr, District 5 and Chair of Finance and Budget.

The F&B committee met on May 7, 2012, with 12 of 13 members present comprising a quorum. The Committee also met on April 23, 2012 with 10 of 13 members present.

This \$250,000 gift for the renovation of the Cherry lawn baseball field is a significant gift and is a renovation that would not have likely been done by the Town any time soon.

Having played and coached on this field, one knows that the renovation is long overdue.

Seeing no near or long term financial impact to the Town, the F&B Committee voted unanimously to approve this gift.

We recommend to the RTM to vote in favor of this Resolution and thank the Darien Little League for its generosity.

Bruce G. Orr, Sr.  
Chairman May 14, 2012

At its regular meeting on March 21, the Park and Recreation Commission with five (5) of nine (9) members present, the following motion passed unanimously:

“Move to accept the gift from the Darien Little League for the renovation of Gallagher baseball field at Cherry Lawn Park as presented for a value up to \$250,000”.

The work will include relocating the field, providing proper fencing, re-grading the site and other site improvements. These changes will provide much needed safety improvements and improve maintenance.

The request for the acceptance of the gift was sent to the Board of Selectmen on March 22, 2012.

Public Health & Safety Committee  
RTM Report on May 14, 2012

**(12-10) RTM Resolution-Consideration and Action on  
Acceptance of \$50,000 gift to the Darien Police Department  
from the Darien Technology Group**

I am Carolyn Schoonmaker, District 4 and Chairman of Public Health & Safety Committee.

I move Resolution (12-10). May I have a second?

Without objection, I waive the reading of Resolution (12-10) to consider and act on acceptance of the \$50,000 gift to the Darien Police Department from the Darien Foundation of Technology and Community.

The Committee met on the evening of May 9, 2012 with 7 of 11 members present, comprising a quorum.

The committee discussed the gift of \$50,000 from The Darien Technology Group to install in the renovated Police Headquarters a training system of an interactive shooting range stimulating realistic life situations. The Police Department indicated that it has the additional \$30,000 needed to make up the full \$80,000 price of the PRISim System.

The Public Health & Safety Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the RTM acceptance of the very generous gift of \$50,000 from the Darien Foundation of Technology and Community by voting in favor of Resolution (12-10).

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schoonmaker, Chairman



**Finance & Budget Committee  
Report to RTM, May 14, 2012**

**(12-10) RTM RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GIFT FROM THE DARIEN  
TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO ACQUIRE  
INTERACTIVE TRAINING SYSTEM**

I am Bruce Orr, District 5 and Chair of Finance and Budget.

The F&B committee met on May 7, 2012, with 12 of 13 members present comprising a quorum. The Committee also met on April 23, 2012 with 10 of 13 members present.

This \$50,000 gift for an interactive training system will allow the Police Dept. to provide state of the art firearms training that will not only enhance the effectiveness of training but also reduce the exposure of our police from liability in the rare event that they are forced to use their firearms.

Without the support of the Darien Technology and Community Foundation, this purchase would not have made the budget cut in most years.

We understand that this equipment and software does not require any annual maintenance or licensing fess. Seeing no near or long term financial impact to the Town, the F&B Committee voted unanimously to approve this gift.

We recommend to the RTM to vote in favor of this Resolution and thank the Foundation for its generosity.

Bruce G. Orr, Sr.  
Chairman May 14, 2012

Public Health & Safety Committee  
RTM Report on May 14, 2012

**(12-11) Consideration and action on acceptance of a total gift  
of \$10,770 for the Senior Center**

I am Carolyn Schoonmaker, District 4 and Chairman of Public Health & Safety Committee.

I move Resolution (12-11) Consideration and action on acceptance of a total gift of \$10,770 for the Darien Senior Center. May I have a second?

Without objection, I waive the reading of Resolution (12-11).

The PH&S Committee met in a special meeting on May 9, 2012, with 7 of 11 members present, comprising a quorum. We were informed by member Gary Swenson, who sits on the Rules Committee, that PH&S was made a Primary Committee on this resolution, although not noted in the warning. We therefore discussed the very generous gifts from the Estate of Charles Meister to the Senior Center and the Wood Shop program in which Mr. Meister was involved.

There were two distributions from the Estate. The first payment of \$6,154 was made and accepted by the Board of Selectmen on February 13, 2012. The second payment of \$4,616 was received later in 2012 and therefore needed to be brought before the RTM for acceptance because it exceeded the \$10,000 code limit by \$770.

The Public Health & Safety Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the RTM acceptance of the full amount of the Estate of Charles Meister's gift of \$10,770 by voting in favor of Resolution (12-11).

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Schoonmaker, Chairman

**Finance & Budget Committee  
Report to RTM, May 14, 2012**

**(12-12) RTM RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$60 MILLION TO REFUND  
CERTAIN OF THE TOWN'S OUTSTANDING BONDS**

I am Bruce Orr, District 5 and Chair of Finance and Budget.

I move Resolution (12-12) and ask for a second.

If there are no objections, I propose to waive the reading of the Resolution.

The F&B committee met on May 7, 2012, with 12 of 13 members present comprising a quorum. The Committee also met on April 24, 2011 with 10 of 13 members present to discuss this item and other budget related topics.

This resolution simply provides the BOF the ability to refinance certain existing bond obligations to take advantage of special circumstances, namely lower interest rates or shortened (or lengthened) maturities of our issued debt, without having to come before the RTM, up to \$60 million in value. As outlined in Section 2 of the Resolution, the action to refund or call any bonds can only be done if it "achieves present value debt service savings for the Town". The RTM has previously approved resolutions of this nature and the BOF has acted this past few years of in a low interest rate environment, saving the Town substantial interest charges. The Town currently has \$63 million in callable bonds, so this year's Resolution was increased from \$50 million to \$60 million to provide additional flexibility along with anticipated favorable market conditions.

The genesis of this annual resolution was that several years ago there was an opportunity to refinance some debt and by the time a Special RTM meeting was convened, the window for favorable refinancing had closed.

The Town currently has approximately \$100 million of outstanding bonded debt. This resolution does not impact the requirement for the RTM to approve any new issuances of debt.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve this Resolution.

We recommend to the RTM to vote in favor of this Resolution.

Bruce G. Orr, Sr.  
Chairman  
May 14, 2012

**Finance & Budget Committee  
Report to RTM, May 14, 2012**

**(12-13) RTM RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET  
FOR THE FISCAL COMMENCING JULY 1, 2012 TO JUNE 30, 2013**

I am Bruce Orr, District 5 and Chair of Finance and Budget.

I move Resolution (12-13) and ask for a second.

If there are no objections, I propose to waive the reading of the Resolution.

Please note that the Budget resolution included in your RTM packet is incorrectly titled as the 2011/2012 Budget Resolution. This is, of course, for the 2012/2013 Budget year. The text of the Resolution is correct. It's also curious to note that the Budget Resolution number, 12-13, is the same as the Budget year! I move Resolution (12-13) and ask for a second.

The F&B committee again had a very active budget season. Our Sub Committee Chairs, Bill Smith for BOS and Jack Davis for the BOE and members of their Committees, attended nearly every Town and District departmental budget meeting. Members of the F&B Committee also attended key BOF meetings, including joint meetings with department heads, the BOF and provided active input during the Budget due diligence process. At these meetings we listened to administrative and departmental proposed budgets, debated and challenged many budget requests and documented our recommendations. These meetings were in addition to our scheduled regular meetings and special meetings called over the past four months. The Committee met in Regular meetings on April 23 2012, with 10 of 13 members and on May 7, 2012 with 12 of 13 members present to discuss and debate many elements BOF recommended Budget. At both these Regular meetings, we were joined by members of the Board of Finance, Town Administration, Board of Education and other engaged parties, including the general public.

Before getting into the details of the recommended Budget, our Committee would like to thank and applaud the efforts of the BOF. They have worked both creatively and diligently on behalf of the taxpayers. Their bias has been to maintain a fiscally conservative policy while sustaining the high quality of Town delivered services... including education. The last couple of budget seasons have

been particularly stressful and the continuous efforts of the BOF have allowed the Town to maintain a triple A credit rating, which in turn, have driven our borrowing and related costs down to extremely favorable levels. These well thought through actions by the BOF not only save us money in the short term but also allow us to accelerate the payment of our general obligation public debt. In short, our long-term fiscal house is in order in a time when many municipalities across the country are struggling to make ends meet.

In total, the overall spending increase for the entire recommended 2012/2013 Town budget, including the Board of Education is \$120.2 million or a 4.6% increase. This translates into a new mill rate of 12.68 or a 3.9% mill rate increase over last year. The BOF approved this budget on April 12, 2012. For reference, last year's total spending was \$115.1 million or a 4.4% increase over prior year. The mill rate was set at 12.20 or a 3.8% over the prior year.

When looking at the proposed mill rate of 12.68, I would like to point out that it will take about \$87k in further reductions to the BOF approved Town budget to move the mill rate on a basis point or 0.01.

Contained in the resolution before you are 7 discrete items, A – G; with items A, B and D being the primary expenditure drivers.

While historically this body has voted on this Resolution in its entirety, it is my understanding that we vote on the primary items separately. For the record, the F&B Committee has always taken action and voted these items separately and have always reported back to the RTM accordingly.

Item A, is the appropriation for the "Selectman's Operating Budget" of \$40.2 million. This item primarily consists of four major spending items:

1. The first being the Town Services... public safety, human services, parks & recreation, public works, general government, human services and other costs of running the non-educational services of the Town. This is the budget that the Selectman and the Town Administrator have responsibility to manage and monitor. The total budget for next year is \$24.6 million or an increase of 2.5%
2. The second item is the Town's contribution to the Library operating account. As you know, the library is an independently owned institution and the Town pays for the general operating , non-capital expenses. The total budget for next year is \$3.2 million or a 2.0% increase over last year.
3. The third item is Debt Service. This is the annual cost to service the Town's long-term debt, which currently stands at about \$100 million and is

comprised of primarily bonds associated with building our public schools, or 90% of the total debt. The budget for next year is \$10.3 million or an increase of 2.4%. This line item is effectively managed by the BOF. It should also be noted that with many of the large capital expenditures behind us, including Middlesex, The High School, Tokeneke, Weed Beach and the Police Station, the forecast shows that we the Town will paying down debt at a fairly rapid clip over the next ten years... effectively reducing our debt service in the coming years.

4. The last major line item is the so-called Selectman's Operation Budget" is \$2.1 million for the "Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-recurring Expenditures" These monies are for general capital purposes and are a transfer out this account as projects move forward and will be voted on separately in Item D, which I guess I will discuss later.

So if your re doing your math, the four items above add up to \$40.2 million, with only two items directly related to Town operations; the \$24.6 million for general Town services and the \$3.2 million for library operations.

*On May 7, 2012, the F&B Committee voted unanimously to approve this appropriation and we recommend that the RTM approve the Selectman's Operating Budget as referred by the BOF.*

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Item B – The Board of Education's budget of \$79.9 million for the '12/'13 operating budget. Thank you Ms. Schneider and the Education Committee for your very comprehensive report out and summary of next year's Budget. I won't get into all the details and try and not to repeat Ms. Schneider's remarks. In summary, the BOF approved BOE budget is an increase of 4.8% or approx. \$3.6 million over prior year's budget. The BOF reduced the recommended BOE budget by approximately \$350k through a combination of lower actuarial estimates for Other Post Retirement Benefits contributions and a small operating reduction. For reference, last year's BOE increase was 6.3% increase or \$4.5 million.

While always subject to tremendous scrutiny by our Committee and other interested and engaged factions, this year was particularly challenging in light of several back-to-back relatively steep increase and the continuing soft economy. Many creative ideas were floated and debated by the BOE, the Education

Committee and the BOF to try and reign in what seem to be the ever rising costs to educate our children, especially those with special needs. The BOE was extremely challenged this year to meet their goals and deliver a budget that does not compromise the quality of a Darien public school education.

While there are many “puts and takes” on this budget – I’m sure you have heard about and will hear more tonight about the many aspects of this budget - the primary drivers of the BOE recommended budget increase of \$4.0 increase (prior to the BOF adjustments) over last year can be put into 5 basic categories:

- \$1.6 million increase in personnel contractual obligations, including salary increases and health benefits, driven by the newly negotiated teachers and administration contracts where salaries will go up about 1.5%. Of this \$1.6 million increase about half or \$800k are salary increases and the balance is health care increases. For reference last year’s increase in this category was \$2.0 million driven by a 4.2% stipulated salary increase.
- \$900k in expected revenue reductions, primarily from Special Education Excess Cost Reimbursements.
- \$762k for increases in Special Education Out-of-district tuition and \$178k for Special Education transport costs
- \$450k in new staffing/program initiatives; \$320k for foreign language in the elementary schools and \$140k for District psychologist and social worker.
- And \$315k for other increases in Fixed expenses.

Given the higher than expected increases proposed in this year’s Education budget, our Committee did extraordinary due diligence – both independently and in concert with the many BOE and BOF budget meetings.

In our last year’s message to the RTM (and the BOE) we said... and I quote from last year’s minutes that *"we have challenged the BOE to bring future operating budgets – namely the '12/'13 budget back down to earth through a combination of measures, including managing Special Education expenses more in line with inflation and general enrollment growth."*

While the BOE and the Administration have taken positive steps to contain the costs of special education this past year, it remains a major driver in the recent year’s increases. Some basic facts: including next year’s proposed increase of 6.5% in Special Ed gross expenditures (that is prior to any State ECR), the five year Compounded Annual Growth Rate of gross Special Education expenses has been 7.8% per year. While everything else in the Education budget has been increasing at 3.8% per year

Once again, we have challenged the BOE and the District Administration to take steps to get these rising costs under control, while providing a free and quality education to all students. They have agreed to address the problem and continue the efforts made this fiscal year. Our Committee would like to see the problem addressed in a more aggressive fashion, including retaining outside, independent resources to accelerate the process.

Our Committee spent several weeks debating the subject of the BOE expenditures for the recommended budget. There were some thoughts on further reducing the Education budget but the general consensus of the Committee was that any further meaningful reductions would begin to impact the quality of the education – specifically the regular education expenditures. As I mentioned earlier, it will take a significant reduction; in the hundreds of thousands of dollars range to move the dial on the mill rate.

Some members of our Committee felt that the community at large – our constituents – did not have an appetite to reduce educational expenditures any further. On the other hand, some members, including the Chair, have received constituent feedback concerning the ever increasing costs of education and the tax burden. We have observed and debated this apparent divide in the electorate over the past several months, and as representatives of the electorate the Committee is compelled to put forth some commentary to the public:

- The grass roots email campaign that was started by the Council of Darien School Parents to provide general support for the BOE recommended budget – while well intended, well-articulated and initially fairly effective, seemingly morphed over time into an email thread that was void of facts and implied that if the budget was not supported we would experience draconian cuts to the program, including teacher lay-offs... kind of like the digital version of the old telephone game.
- On the opposite end of the spectrum, those who have expressed growing concerns over the costs of education and the impact on their taxes have been remarkably silent. Mostly phone calls and at social gatherings. There were very few letters to the editor, no shows at public hearings and certainly no email campaigns. Is this the silent majority or are they just concerned about publically speaking up?

At the conclusion of our debate, the overarching concern was not necessarily the current budget but the trend line; annual increases in range of 4 to 6% are just not economically sustainable. We are blessed with a great school system; one



that delivers a solid education and helps drive home values. The taxpayers have mostly supported the budget increases but we do not wish to be in a position – several years down the road – when we could be faced with real reductions in Education expenses

*On May 7, 2012 the F&B Committee voted to approve the Education Operating budget with 11 in favor, 0 against and 1 abstention. The one member abstaining generally agreed with the eventual outcome, but wanted to insure that the vote was not unanimous, as the Committee does have on-going concerns with the cost trend line.*

*We recommend that the RTM approve the BOF recommended Education budget.*

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The last Item that has spending and taxpayer implications is Item D, Other Appropriations. Of these six items, the only item that is not self-funding is the first item, Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-recurring expenses. This appropriation of \$2.1 million is a fairly modest list of capital expenses for both the Town and the BOE. Details of the approved capital projects can be found beginning on page 262 of your budget books. It should be noted that of this \$2.1 million, \$500 is an appropriation for the Town wide Revaluation – a true non-recurring item, as it only happens every 5 years and is mandated by State law.

Therefore, the total capital expenditures for next fiscal year are about \$1.6 million – down from last year's \$2.0 million – are a fairly modest list of projects, including items for Parks & Rec, School related improvements and vehicles, Police & Fire vehicles and Public works projects, such as the usual allocation for sidewalk repairs roadway maintenance.

*On May 7, 2012, the F&B Committee voted unanimously to approve this capital and non-recurring expense appropriation and recommends that the RTM approve.*

Respectively submitted,

Bruce G. Orr, Sr.  
Chairman  
May 14, 2012

## **REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING**

**WARNING 12-13**

**2012-2013**

**I am Adele Conniff, Vice Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee.**

**The Parks and Recreation Committee met on May 7, 2012 with 9 of 14 members present, to discuss and vote on the Parks and Recreation Operating and Capital section of the 2012-2013 Town Budget. There was some discussion about new expenses and revenues associated with the Weed Beach paddle hut.**

**The committee voted unanimously to approve this budget.**

**Thank you.**

Good evening, Allison Stolar, District 5 Vice Chair of PWC.

The Public Works Committee met on 4/30/12 with 8 of 14 members present representing a quorum. Among the topics discussed was the Public Works component of the 2012/13 budget. The PWC met again on 5/14/12 with 8 of 14 members present representing a quorum for the purpose of approving this statement. The statement was approved by a vote of 7 to 1 with 0 abstentions.

While we do not withhold support from the budget as a committee, PWC members expressed a view that regular maintenance and planning across several areas which are the responsibility of Public Works have been underemphasized as the town leadership focuses our financial resources on new capital projects. While the Public Works Committee does not take a position on these capital projects individually, it does believe that existing facilities, and priorities related to safety, should be properly funded before new projects are undertaken which add to the maintenance burden of the town.

Thank you.

Allison Stolar  
Vice Chair of Public Works

**RTM – May 14, 2012**

**Annual Budget Meeting  
P&Z 2012-2013 Budget Presentation**

Planning & Zoning Department's Proposed Budget for 2012-2013 is essentially unchanged from 2011-2012's Approved Budget, at an increase of just 1.34% or \$7,229 --- to \$546,290.

Last year the Department reduced budgeted expenditures by 5.9%.

This year a modest reduction in salary expenses will be offset by an increase in advertising expenses for all three responsibilities --- Planning & Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals and Environmental Protection Commission.

The increase in advertising expenditures results from the newspaper recently realizing they had been under charging for public announcements.

An additional \$100,000 has been added to Regulatory Counsel expenses in anticipation of continuing litigation expenses. This budget is now at \$300,000.

The PZ&H Committee met with Jeremy Ginsberg, Department Director, and Fred Conze, Chairman of Planning & Zoning Commission, to review the Proposed Budget on March 5<sup>th</sup>. With 11 of 14 members present the Committee voted unanimously to approve the budget as proposed.

Thank you.

John van der Kieft  
Chairman, PZ&H

5/14/12

Good Evening Madam Moderator, RTM members, fellow elected officials and our home audience of interested taxpayers.

Thank you everyone, particularly my fellow board members, the Board of Finance and the Finance and Budget Committee of this body for their scrutiny and thoughtful deliberations on the proposed 2012-13 budget. I also would like to thank Karl Kilduff and Kate Buch for their guidance through the process.

Not long ago I spoke to you about the many levels of analysis and debate over our proposed budgets. By the time the budget comes to this body for its consideration, all stakeholders have had ample opportunity to give detailed input and I am confident that the budget before you tonight represents an honest effort to wisely appropriate tax dollars to support the services our community needs and wants.

My goals in crafting this year's budget were to continue to evaluate and support quality services in the most cost efficient manner possible, to support infrastructure improvements while the economic environment remains competitive and to encourage a conservative yet appropriate use of reserve fund monies to offset capital spending. Conservative reserve fund balances support our outstanding credit ratings but I feel strongly that we must never overtax and I want to thank the Board of Finance for their consideration on this issue.

The Board of Selectmen's budget of \$40,250,354 represents an operating budget increase of 2.1% and debt service increase of 2.4% due in large part to an extremely favorable bond environment and lower costs for health care. As anticipated when my board gave the green light to several capital projects that had been on hold and in our discussions about the Shuffle, we are beginning to realize the financial benefits of historically low interest rates and construction costs and we eagerly anticipate the reopening of Weed Beach and the Police Building early this summer. However, a new challenge we face in the near term is the need to maintain these new facilities to protect our taxpayers' investment.

The Board of Selectmen's operating budget represents less than 30% of the budget for the town – 25% if you assign the debt service for our school building projects to the Board of Education yet our budget serves 100% of our town's residents.

I pledge that the Board of Selectmen will continue to think out of the box to find ways to be more efficient and to share services with the Board of Education where it makes sense to do so. Dr. Falcone, Chairman Ross and I have already met once on this issue and I am happy to report that there are many things that we already collaborate on that translate into savings for the town. Also, the recent introduction of Single Stream Recycling should result in some positive revenue generation at our transfer station.

Looking forward, I will be working on new policies for vehicle and facility maintenance and parking, to name a few, that should assist us in our future budget planning. We will need to analyze and discuss future investments in firefighting equipment, policies on new sidewalk installations and to define and execute some watercourse management projects that will help protect our natural environment.

I greatly appreciate your thoughtful consideration this evening and on behalf of my fellow board members and our hard working town employees, I ask that you vote to fully fund the Board of Selectmen's proposed budget for 2012-13.

Respectfully,

Jayne Stevenson  
First Selectman

Liz Mao Remarks to the RTM  
Darien Budget Fiscal Year 2013  
May 14, 2012

Madam Moderator, Members of the RTM, Town Officials, and taxpayers: Good Evening!

I am Liz Mao, Chairman of the Board of Finance. I am here this evening to ask you to vote to approve the budget resolutions passed by the Board of Finance on April 12 for the Town of Darien. The net effect would result in the setting of the mill rate at 12.68 mills, or a rise the mill rate of 3.93 percent.

These budget resolutions were passed *unanimously* by the Board of Finance after several months of study and discussion. We members, as a Board, believe that these budgets are reasonable and responsive to the wishes of the taxpayers to maintain our services and fixed assets.

Since the RTM has decided to split the budget vote between the Town Budget and the Board of Education, I will address them separately.

First, the budget for the Town: As Mrs. Stevenson stated on presenting the Town Budget, there are no new services or programs included. However, current services are maintained.

- Excluding debt service, capital spending and the Library grant, the Town Budget is to rise 2.5 percent.
- The Library grant is in the budget for a rise of 2 percent after several years of essentially flat budgeting.
- Capital Spending on Town and Board of Education projects—outside of bonded projects—will total \$2,079,481 spent from the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-recurring Expenses of for Fiscal Year 2013.
- Debt service, or the payment of principal and interest on our bonds, is rising 2.4 % to \$10,340,810. This number is down considerably from prior forecasts for several reasons. I will make a few comments about debt service, but first I would like to note for reference that the Town's debt service number last peaked at about 11.2 million dollars in FY 2009, and for the current fiscal year is 10.1 Million dollars.

The Board of Finance brought two capital projects into this year's budget. First, we decided to fund the \$ 110,000 thousand Fire Drill Tower out of our Capital Contingency account. We hadn't used any funds from it this year, and we will still have a healthy balance in that account of over 400 thousand dollars, and so it made sense to us to use some of it.

Second, after touring Middlesex Middle School and seeing the roof, now way past its useful life, we agreed that the Town needed to fund a new roof. We had three options: put it into the budget for next year and tax our citizens for the \$750,000 cost, propose to issue bonds for the funding, or, find a way to possibly fund it with monies on hand.

We took the latter route. This was only possible because several of the capital projects we had already completed ended up with monies left over in their accounts, or weren't done in the end. For example, running the gas line to town hall came in under budget, and the solar panel grant for town hall wasn't forthcoming, so we were able to close out these accounts, and others, for a total of \$601,000. Instead of sweeping these accounts into contingency, we set up an account for the roof, and transferred the monies into it. We funded the balance with a transfer from our Infrastructure Reserve, again an account we hadn't been using much. I will note that we also expect to receive a partial grant from the State for the roof, but we won't count it before it is received.

As you know we recently went to the market to issue bonds for 14 million dollars for capital projects approved in past years. We issued bonds at a record low interest rate of 2.526 percent, and structured them in order to even out our debt service payments. We did not issue bonds for the full cost of Weed Beach. Rather, we took one million from our Fund Balance, which actually grew last year by \$500 thousand dollars. Our healthy Fund Balance was also used to close out the school building accounts for the High School and for Tokeneke School, totaling \$965 thousand dollars.

Now I will turn to the Board of Education operating budget. There has been a lot of discussion about this budget tonight and I will keep my remarks short, but can answer any questions you might have. The Board of Finance met several times with the Board of Education, and we studied their numbers thoroughly. Although the Special Ed budget increased again dramatically, the rate of increase has slowed, and we are confident that the administration has taken our advice to heart and implemented cost-saving efficiencies in delivering SPED services. We look forward to further progress next year.

We approved a cut to the BOE's proposed budget of \$340,000. This total was reached by a reduction of \$175,000 to their OPEB account and \$165,000 from operations. The Board of Finance believes that the Board of Education can find the places to cut these funds without compromising the education and programs the Board of Education is delivering. We were mindful that some taxpayers were looking for significant cuts, but we point out that to make a meaningful impact on the increase in the taxes raised—say a one percent cut would be about \$1.2 million dollars—the Board of Education would have no alternative but to lay off teachers and increase class sizes significantly. That might be a discussion this body or other town entities might wish to have at some point, but the Board of Finance members did not collectively think that that was what Darien citizens were looking for in next year's budget.

Accordingly, I am here tonight to request that this body approve the Spending Resolutions as set forth in your packet. I would be pleased to answer questions when directed so by Mrs. Armour. Thank you.



# **RTM Education Committee**

## **Report to the RTM on May 14, 2012**

### **2012-2013 Education Budget**

Good evening. My name is Lois Schneider and I chair the RTM Education Committee.

The RTM Education Committee met on April 30, 2012 with 13 of 16 members present to discuss and vote on the Education components of the Town Budget. Joining us for this meeting were representatives from the Board of Ed and administration. The Committee voted 11 in favor 1 opposed with 1 abstention to approve the Education Operating Budget of \$79,984,182 and the vote to approve the Education portion of the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures was 12 in favor and 1 abstention.

I will provide an overview of the upcoming budget as presented and then detail our major discussion issue.

The Superintendent's proposed budget was presented in early January and, at the Board of Education's request, represented the dollars needed for maintaining our high level of quality education and some new initiatives. The Board of Ed then discussed all of the budget line items, adding in where appropriate to provide a base for covering costs and reducing some budget lines. The goal was to present a workable budget meeting our commitments and not underfunding particular line items. The Superintendent's proposed budget had a 5.60% increase over this year. After the Board of Ed's adjustments, the budget presented to the Board of Finance was a 5.26% increase. The Board of Finance reduced the Board of Ed recommended budget by \$340,000 of which \$175,000 is a non-cash OPEP adjustment. The remaining \$165,000 will need to come out of the Board of Ed operating lines. The specific changes will occur after our vote on the budget. The Board of Finance and the RTM only vote on overall amounts for the Education operating budget and not by line item which is different from the Selectmen's budget.

Key items in the budget:

**Enrollment:** The projected enrollment is basically flat for next year with a reduction of 3 in the elementary schools, reduction of 29 students in the middle school and an increase of 34 students at the high school. Kindergarten enrollment to date is being carefully watched. The elementary schools currently require 1 more section at a minimum than was budgeted which is available in budget control. If additional sections are needed other adjustments will need to be made in budget line items. These numbers vary thru to August 1<sup>st</sup> when the final class section count is established. Contrary to other districts in the area, our enrollment has not declined.

Class-size policy and guidelines are being maintained – a key request from the Board, parents, and educators.

**Staffing:** This budget has an increase of 7 new positions: an elementary school social worker, a secondary school psychologist and 5 elementary school teachers for world language. These headcount changes were approved by the Board of Ed and are in the budget presented here tonight.

**Salary increases:** This budget is the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the new teachers' contract that is a main cost driver (beside headcount) on personnel costs. These contract increases have already been approved and cannot be changed in the budget process. The personnel costs are increasing 2.22%, which includes the additional headcount.

**Health insurance:** The health insurance costs are budgeted to increase 8.75% which includes the HSA only changes to the health plans for teachers and well-negotiated contracts with health insurance providers.

Special Ed continues to be a focus for the Board of Ed and the administration to provide needed services for Special Ed students while refining how these services are delivered. The number of students has increased by 60 from the prior year. The growth in costs have been lessened – not the outlay. These efforts will continue in the upcoming year. In addition, there will be a new Special Ed Director to provide a fresh look at these efforts. The state is supposed to pay a reimbursement for costs over 4.5 times our average students costs. The budget assumes slightly lower claims as the delivery efficiencies lower some of our eligible costs. The state is currently paying a reimbursement of 75% on district claims based on limitations in the state budget. The budgeted impact of lower claims and possibly lower state reimbursement results in a \$900,000 budget hit.

**Technology** – We are starting a new 3-year technology plan which includes replacement and upgrades of current technology. The new budget includes \$275,000 towards this plan.

Capital Requests – The Board of Finance was able to find the \$750,000 for a new roof for the front portion of Middlesex Middle School in this year's funds. The requested capital for security cameras was not approved by the Board of Finance, thus leaving \$255,000 in the 2012-13 capital budget for Education.

The Education Committee follows the budget process and the financial reporting throughout the year by attending Board of Ed meetings and Sub-committee meetings. We, as well as the Board of Finance, can only approve a total dollar figure for the Board of Ed. It is up to the Board of Ed to allocate the funds. That being said, the Board of Ed works hard at transparency and we appreciate their efforts and achievements with this.

There is one item that is a new initiative that we have followed closely over the past several years. This is the introduction of a world language program in the elementary schools. The committee is a strong supporter for world language in the elementary schools. We have differed from the Board of Ed in how these services should be delivered. The current proposal includes 1 class per week for 45 minutes of Spanish in grades K thru 5. This period replaces the library special. The library program is being incorporated into the core curriculum where appropriate. This world language program requires an increase in 5 teachers – 1 per elementary school – at a time of serious financial pressures on our residents. The committee members believe that the program as designed does not live up to the level of expectations that we have for our education system. We believe that frequency is a core component of language learning that is not being met. Towards that end we discussed proposing an amendment to the budget to reduce the money available to the education budget with this program as our target. The results of our sense of the meeting to consider an amendment to reduce the budget was just 5 in favor. Thus we did not have a majority and did not discuss a budget amendment further. As mentioned earlier we voted 11 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention on the operating portion of the Education Budget.

Assuming that the world language program is implemented next year, we, as a committee, strongly encourage the administration and Board to address enhancing the design of the program going forward.

There are a number of administrators that are retiring or departing this year and we would like to thank them for their many years of service successfully educating our children. They include Dan Haron, Principal of Darien High School, John Recchi, Principal of Ox Ridge Elementary School, Robin Pavia, Director of Special Education and Student Services and John Keleher Director of Physical Education, Athletics and Intramurals. Thank you for you many years of teaching our children.

We support the Education budget and hope you will do the same.

Thank you.

2012-2013 BOE Recommended Budget  
RTM Meeting May 14, 2012

Good Evening, Madame Moderator, members of the RTM, elected officials and the town of Darien. Thank you for the opportunity to report on the Board of Education Recommended Budget for 2012-2013.

The Board of Education 2012-2013 recommended operating budget is \$79,984,182 or a 4.81% increase over last year's approved budget. Our recommended capital budget is \$255,000. The capital projects include resurfacing the High school tennis courts, repairs to Hindley's curbs and sidewalks, and replacement of a mower, and truck.

The overall goal of the 2012-2013 budget is to advance student learning through high quality programs and instruction, while at the same time achieving the greatest possible economy of resources. This budget balances the educational excellence that is expected by our community and our fiscal responsibility to the Town of Darien. The economic uncertainty that we face as a nation at the Federal and State level continues to have an impact on our planning. Unfunded state mandates, Special Education directives, enrollment growth, and fixed costs have contributed to our increases. In addition, the Administration and Board of Education deferred much-needed programs and projects over the past several years that have been addressed in this budget.

Enrollment continues to be a major driver of our budget. As we, all know, access to Metro North, the I95, and our high achieving school district makes Darien a very desirable community in which to live and raise children. This was also confirmed by the Census Bureau report last year that our percentage of persons under 18 was 36.8 %, the highest in the state and 10% above the state average. All of which are responsible for the 10% growth in enrollment in the Darien Public Schools over the past 6 years. This increase has not occurred in other DRG communities. For 2012-2013, we had projected our overall enrollment to remain stable, with a shift in students and resources from the middle school to the high school. At the elementary level, where class size is regulated by Board of Education policy, we projected flat enrollment. To no one's surprise, when Kindergarten registration occurred in February, we have had an increase in our enrollment, which will require at least one additional section.

We continue to be proactive in trying to reduce our fixed costs. As of July 1, 2012, our largest bargaining unit, the teacher's union will move to an HSA plan, which will moderate our healthcare care cost-increases. Hindley has been converted to natural gas for heating, and solar panels were installed at the high school and Ox Ridge. We continue to collaborate with the town in our electricity and fuel oil purchasing. We are also looking to the State for a construction grant to offset a portion of the Middlesex Roof as well as collaborating with the 35 Leroy Building Committee to seek State reimbursement for that building project. We would like to thank the Board of Finance for its creative thinking in moving the Middlesex Roof project into the 2011-2012. This enables us to have the roof completed over this summer.

As part of Dr. Falcone's 2011-2012 goals and objective's a cultural shift is taking place within the schools so that all teachers recognize a shared responsibility for all students. Through Dr. Falcone's thorough and methodical approach, cost efficiencies and staff maximization have been identified. For 2011-2012, cost increases have been reduced to 4% from a 13% average in the past three years. Unfortunately, these efficiencies in 2011-2012 resulted in a reduction in our Special Education Excess Cost reimbursement. Dr. Falcone and his Administrative team will continue to maximize our special education resources, which is reflected in an additional reduction of this grant by \$900,000 in the 2012- 2013 budget. The reduction of this grant contributes over 1% of the total 4.81% requested increase.

The 2012-2013 Board of Education budget has been prepared with all of these issues at the forefront. We have addressed the special education concerns and have been more conservative in our approach. This year's increase of \$3,670,378 or 4.81% is comprised of 3.1%, which represents contractual, operational, and fixed obligations necessary to open our doors at the start of the school year. It includes less than .7% or \$533,623 of new initiatives. Our new initiatives include a social worker at the elementary level and psychologist for the middle and high school and the elementary world language program.

This evening we can report that we are forecasting to end the 2011-2012 school year in a positive position. It hinges upon an additional \$150,000 in Summer School revenue, which needs to be booked by June 30<sup>th</sup>. While I have this opportunity, parents, remember to go online to [Darienps.org](http://Darienps.org) and sign up your children for that sports camp, drama club orchestra/ band class or jump start for middle school, to help us meet our budget.

We would like to thank the members of the Board of Finance, the RTM-Education, and Finance & Budget Committees who challenged us to carefully look at the management of the school district's financial resources. We listened to your recommendations and answered your challenge. With the RTM's longstanding support of education, together, we built a great asset for the town of Darien. Not only is our school system thriving, but more importantly, our students are thriving. It goes beyond the bricks and mortar; the students, our children, are the core of our school system. They represent the future of our community and our world. We request that you continue to support this investment in the future of our community by supporting the Darien Board of Education 2012- 2013 Recommended Budget. Thank you.

Elizabeth Hagerty-Ross  
Darien Board of Education - Chairman

My name is Jack Davis, currently District V.

*for those that will not  
like what I have to say  
I will be district III  
next year.*

Last year I stood before this austere body and said that the mill rate increase was too high. I suggested that others join me in voting against the total budget. And you did – at least more than 25 of you ~~did~~ – the most in recent history.

One year later, we are at budget time again. This year's budget will be presented differently than last year. We will have the opportunity to vote separately on each budget – the BOS, the BOE and the Capital budget that includes items from both the BOS and BOE.

*Insert* **(A)** I will fully support the BOS budget and encourage you to support this budget as well. While the increase is higher than previous years, it reflects the deferral of expenditures over the prior ~~three years~~ *years.* The increase in debt servicing is reflective of appropriations that this body, the legislative body of Darien, has approved in this and prior legislative sessions. I consider myself, as a citizen *Darien* fortunate to have had the leadership of 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Campbell and now 1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman Stevenson, as well as the other selectman to have delivered to the town yet another fiscally responsible budget. Thank you for all of your hard work.

I will also fully support the Capital budget. It too reflects prudent fiscal management by the BOS, BOE and BOF.

~~Now to the BOE budget.~~ As some of you may be aware I am the F&B Chair of the BOE budget – I have been so for the last 4 to 5 years. ~~To start~~ *Before I start,* I would like to publically thank John Rechi, Ox Ridge, Dan Haron, DHS and Robin Pavia *SPED,* for their years


*Vice Chair of F&B*

*John Kelcher,  
Athletic  
Director*



of service to our school system. <sup>town students</sup> Many of our children <sup>has</sup> benefited by their dedication <sup>from leadership and</sup> to our children, <sup>total</sup>

As for the BOE budget. This year, again, we see higher than anticipated expenditures. While I am a strong supporter of a quality educational experience for all of our students, this continued growth is not sustainable. And, as a town we are far from out of the woods. This September our body will address the state audit of Tokeneke and Darien HS, the result of which will reduce our general fund by approximately \$900,000. That is after the excellent efforts by the school's administration to reduce that amount by over \$300,000. The school system has deferred almost \$2 million in expenditures – classroom materials and equipment and other such expenditures. These costs are deferred – the \$2 million is not going away. We also have a potential future significant expenditure, currently being examined by the BOS, to replace fire engines. So what we do today, has ramifications not only for the current year, but for next year as well.

 I have been fortunate <sup>during the</sup> of the last three to four months to have visited many towns throughout our Congressional 4<sup>th</sup> district. I have spoken with many fine people serving on councils, Boards of Finance and BOE. I have seen firsthand the concerns expressed by other citizens – when their towns' are having increases of 2.2% or 1.7% or even less. Again, these are often towns included in our own DRG – the towns that Darien is compared to within the State educational system. You would not believe the faces when I state what Darien's increase will be this year. All of these have quality schools – now while I am a little bias and believe ours is the best – but honestly they are on equal footing.

Bruce Orr addressed some of the drivers for our school budget. I want to focus on *one that is of equal concern to the Administration, BOE + BOF* one – SPED. Throughout this year, I have heard from constituents that there seems to be a divide in town – not the 1% versus the 99% - but the 12 or 13% versus the 87%. The SPED population versus the general education population. Before, I start – at no time am I looking to cut services to children – but the theme is that we need to address this area, as a community, where we increase the “effectiveness per Dr Falcone” ~~while I will~~ use the word “achievement” and the same time increase the efficiency of our service delivery. Progress has been made. The BOE has established a sub-committee. There is a new culture being implemented by Dr Falcone to include all faculty in the development of a student. Certain services have been brought in house. There has been efficiencies *IEP efficiencies* implemented in SPED aides. Our SRBI initiative is helping students earlier, thereby either reducing students from entering SPED or catching them earlier that allows for more tools and skills to be implemented sooner. And a new director is starting in July as Robin Pavia is retiring. Yet this is not really enough.

Darien’s SPED expenses represent 27% of our school budget prior to Excess Cost Reimbursement. Other towns within our DRG are between 20 to 21%. Our mix of disability types is similar to those other schools – so it is not that Darien has a greater percentage of students with expensive needs. *Autism typically costs 3x the average SPED costs.* And Darien is a leader within our DRG with almost 80% of our SPED students spending more than 80% of their time in

mainstream classrooms. The mandates for all towns are the same – there is no special mandate for Darien. *F+B has requested information - a review of OH 1, costs by disability classification, metrics on staffing (just introduced in the Bagwell report).* There are times when a business should seek outside help – help from consultants with track records for increasing student achievement while containing or reducing costs.

*These are areas one would expect additional work*

*The categories of what  
to the students 60 ADHD Fed  
cost less than 60 autistic children*



*It could grow or  
allay concerns of action*

I believe that time for our town is now. We do not have another two years to continue on

this path. Again, I am a big supporter of Dr Falcone. He has assembled an excellent

*We are lucky to have him.*  
management team. But time is running out. I can only encourage the BOE and the

Administration to seek outside advice and consultation during next year. This is essential

so that our general education population is not having diluted benefits due to our growing

SPED population. *We do not have time to continue to know from  
peter to pay paul.*

I will not ask for any member of this legislature to vote against the school budget. I will  
*not support any reduction as the consequence will most probably*  
I will not be voting against the BOE budget, but as Bruce said earlier, while we *be done by*  
~~I will be abstaining to indicate~~ *Brunett* *the y*  
appreciate the efforts of the BOE – we need to have a more aggressive approach to *general school*  
containing costs while increasing achievement for our students – all students those within *population*  
SPED and the general student population at large. *to grow*  
*and that is*  
*unacceptable*  
*to me.*

Thank you.

*We are also requesting a plan  
to integrate technology into the management  
of the district*

*I have heard from*  
~~A topic of many conversations~~  
Darien Citizens *have* ~~stating they~~ *demanding* fiscal  
responsibility from our federal + state gov'ts.  
We should be demanding the same  
efficiency and fiscal responsibility  
from all government entities within  
Darien.

Again we cannot continue to have these  
increase. It will effect <sup>our</sup> property values  
as other towns with excellent educational  
systems are experiencing increases of less than  
1/2 that amount.